

Abstract

A preferred apparatus for connecting a fitting to a conduit section comprises a rigid insert designed to be affixed to the fitting and one or more retainers designed to fit over the external surface of the conduit section. A preferred insert includes at least two axially-spaced, raised detents. Suitable retainers include rigid, one-piece collars and clamps. An especially preferred method for connecting the coupler fittings and the section of pipe comprises the steps of positioning a one-piece collar over the external surface of the conduit section; pressing the insert into a receiving end of the conduit section; and pushing the one-piece collar along the external surface of the conduit section toward the receiving end to substantially align the one-piece collar between two axially-spaced, raised detents on the insert. Most preferably, a seal is positioned between the two axially-spaced, raised detents. The preferred retainer cinches the wall of the conduit section against the outer surface of the insert between the two raised detents so as to decrease the likelihood that the conduit section will leak or slip from the fitting during use.